

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-02 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 FEA-01

OES-05 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7328

UNCLAS CARACAS 0721

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTSON PEREZ GUERRERO'S MEETING
WITH THE SECRETARY

REF: STATE 012404

1. LOCAL PRESS JANUARY 18 GAVE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO THE MEETING OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO WITH THE SECRETARY ON JANUARY 17. PRESS ALSO EXTENSIVELY REPORTED PEREZ GUERRERO'S RETURN TO CARACAS NIGHT OF JANUARY 18, INCLUDING FACT THAT PEREZ GUERRERO BROUGHT WITH HIM A VERBAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT PEREZ. PEREZ GUERRERO DECLINED TO TELL REPORTERS WHAT THE MESSAGE SAID, OTHER THAN CHARACTERIZING IT AS "MORE REALISTIC THAN OPTIMISTIC."

2. IN A BRIEF, EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH EL NACIONAL PUBLISHED JANUARY 20 PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID THAT THE SECRETARY HAD TOLD PEREZ GUERRERO THAT "A CONFRONTATION WITH VENEZUELA WOULD BE VERY NEGATIVE." ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT PEREZ, PEREZ GUERRERO HAD EXPRESSED TO THE SECRETARY VENEZUELA'S
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"GREAT CONCERN" OVER THE TRADE REFORM ACT, STATING THAT IT

CAUSED PROBLEMS NOT ONLY WITH VENEZUELA BUT WITH
LATIN AMERICA AND OPEC.

3. PRESIDENT PERZ REFUSED TO ELABORATE ON THE SECRETARY'S
MESSAGE TO HIM OTHER THAN INDICATE THAT THE SECRETARY
IS/"PARTICULARLY INTERESTEDIN CARRYING ON A DIALOGUE WITH
VENEZUELA SINCE HERECOGNIZES THAT REAL DIFFICULTIES EXIST IN
ORDER FORTHE BUENOS AIRESMEETING TO TAKE PLACE." PRESIDENT PEREZ
WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE"PRESENT CONCERN OF THE U.S. SE-
CRETARY OF STATE IS THE SITUATION AND NEGATIVE CLIMATE WHICH
HAS BEEN CREATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE MARCH MEETING IN BUENOS
AIRES WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A 'NEW DIALOGUE'
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA."

4. PRESIDENT PEREZ CONFIRMED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD VISIT
CARACAS IN FEBRUARY BUT DID NOT GIVE ANY DATE.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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